**BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Post Office Drawer 309
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-0309
(803) 525-4200
FAX (803) 525-4324

CC96-45

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Chairman
LAURA BUSH

Vice Chairman
CHARLES KRESCH

Secretary
DALE FRIEDMAN

Board Members
Earl Campbell
Rick Caporale
Joseph Floyd
York L. Glover
Rauben Greene
Susan Jancourtz
Ronald Speaks
Bonnie Smith

Superintendent
HERMAN K. GAITHER

April 24, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

RE: The Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As chairman of the Beaufort County Board of Education, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication toward ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries, provides substantial discounts for even the poorest schools allowing them the opportunity to connect to the Internet, more importantly the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

Our schools need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I therefore urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Laura Bush, Chairman
Beaufort County Board Of Education

LB/ljw

APR 25 12:21 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

Montgomery County Elementary School
900 Martin Luther King Drive
Ailey, GA 30410
912/583-2279
912/583-4560 (Fax)

CC96-45

April 25, 1997

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997
Federal Communications Commission

The Honorable Susan Ness
FCC Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner:

I am the principal of Montgomery County Elementary School. Your dedication and hard work in ensuring that school districts such as ours have affordable access to the world wide web is commendable.

In a rural area such as ours it is often difficult for students to have the same access to information as those in more metropolis areas do. We are working very hard to ensure that our students receive the best education they possibly can.

That is why we have been so excited about the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision which will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is extremely important. If areas like ours are ever going to be able to prepare our students to meet the demands of a global economy we must allow them access to one of the best means of learning available as soon as possible.

Thanks again for all of your hard work, and your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Hannah Kent
Principal

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

APR 25 12 21 PM '97

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 24 1 08 PM '97
RECEIVED

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program. I am an employee of the Lassen County Office of Education and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Smith

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

RECEIVED APR 24 1 00 PM '97

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission

Dear Commissioner Ness:

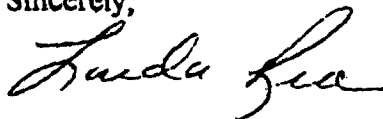
I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program. I am an employee of the Lassen County Office of Education and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

APR 24 1 08 PM '97

RECEIVED

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program. I am an employee of the Lassen County Office of Education and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gwen Pacheco

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

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APR 24

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

1 08 PM '97

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program. I am an employee of the Lassen County Office of Education and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

James Hall

PERSHING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

P. O. BOX 389

LOVELOCK, NEVADA 89419

DANIEL W. FOX

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

PERSHING CO. HIGH SCHOOL

RONALD E. BECK, PRINCIPAL

PERSHING CO. MIDDLE SCHOOL

ANITA R. FISK, PRINCIPAL

LOVELOCK/IMLA

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JAMES B. ROWE, PRINCIPAL

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 25, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554
FAX 202-418-2821

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

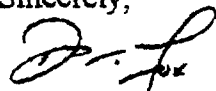
Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the Superintendent of Schools for the Pershing County School District in rural Nevada and would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need significant discounts for telecommunication services this year. Whereas we only enroll 1,002 students, our district covers approximately 6,100 square miles! We are rural and we are distant. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Fox
Superintendent of Schools

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 25 11 50 AM '97

June Lewis
Route 2 Box 45
McRae, Georgia 31055
Phone 912-374-2240
Fax 912-374-1524
Home Phone 912-868-5259
Email jlewis2@mail.dodge.public.lib.ga.us

RECEIVED April 24, 1997

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

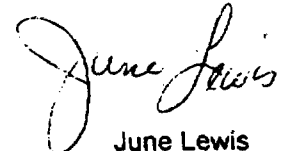
Dear Commissioner Ness:

As a consultant for a regional educational service agency serving ten school systems in the southern part of Georgia, I am very interested in the actions that you take concerning the implementation of the Telecommunications Act. I would like to thank you for your efforts to assure that all school districts and educational consortia have affordable access to the technology needed for our children and other citizens to have the opportunities to promote world class learning. The area I serve can have the educational playing field not only leveled but enriched by your decision to ensure that access is affordable in poor districts that are geographically isolated from large libraries, museums, and other educational tools often taken for granted in many urban areas. For example, today I was in an eighth grade classroom where the teacher had gone to a public library to access the Internet to get information on Hale Bopp to use with her class' study of astronomy. There was no local access for her or her students in the school or at her home. It was only through her extra dedication to her students that the information was available for her class. These students should have the same opportunities as students elsewhere in the United States.

I urge you to provide every school system in the country with discounts for all telecommunication services based upon the criteria of poverty (free or reduced lunch indicators) and isolation (rural). E-rate discounts should be available for inside connections to classrooms, networking of schools and education offices and libraries with each other, and Internet access including installation and maintenance costs. Funding should be administered by an independent fund administrator, not state education departments. Applications should be sent to all school systems and public libraries and should take into consideration that the smaller, poorer school systems do not have "professional" grant writers on staff and that many do not employ a full staff during the summer months. Therefore, applications should take a minimum of effort to complete, and sufficient notice should be given for their completion. Local flexibility for self determination of services needed for the individual school's educational mission should be allowed.

I urge you to support the discount plan for universal services to schools so that all our American students can be more adequately prepared.

Sincerely,


June Lewis

Walla Walla Public Schools

364 South Park Street
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-3293
(509) 527-3000 - FAX (509) 529-7713

April 24, 1997

Dr. Ellen L. Wolf, Superintendent

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MAY 1 1997

APR 25 11 50 AM '97

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 844
Washington DC 20554
By Fax 202-418-2821

Re: Proposed \$2.25 Billion "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount

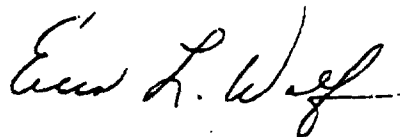
Honorable Commissioner Ness:

Please support the Joint Board's plan for a \$2.25 billion telecommunications discount to public schools. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, most importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

The Walla Walla School District will be spending approximately \$50,000 per year in data communications to provide wide area networking and Internet access services for students. With the "E-Rate" Telecommunications discount in effect, our cost would be cut by approximately 50%. The discount would not only guarantee equal access for our 12 sites, it would ensure access to worldwide information and greatly assist information exchange within our district. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway and for all your efforts on behalf of public education.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ellen L. Wolf
Superintendent of Schools

4990 INDIAN HEAD HIGHWAY
INDIAN HEAD, MARYLAND 20640

TELEPHONE:

(301) 743-5422/23
LOCAL

(301)753-6421
FAX

(301) 753-1786
METRO

MEIR
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MAY 1 1997

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUGAR HARBOR

APR 25 11 50 AM '91

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

WE are faculty and staff from General Smallwood Middle School in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and , importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[illegible]

April 22, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 1 1997

Apr 25 11 49 AM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

We are faculty and staff from *Lodacy High* in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guaranteed that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Buck Berman
Tim Altman
Michael
J. C. Mounie
Therese M. Leach
Andrew G. Rost
Mary V. Lewis
J. Boone

Peter W. Trovato
David L. Anderson
John L. Dutton
BO Jensen
Robert
Ed Hall
Charles L. Haynie
E. Dwyer
Catherine B. Nick



HEART OF GEORGIA REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

P.O. BOX 368 • 101 HARRELL AVENUE • EASTMAN, GA 31023 • (912) 374-2240 • FAX: (912) 374-1524

JUNE D. BRADFELD, Ed.S., Executive Director

April 24, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 25 11 49 AM '97

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am Executive Director for the Heart of Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) which includes the following counties in Georgia: Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler, and Wilcox. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. We desperately need it.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow. I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I sent to the Georgia Public Service Commissioner that will explain our area and concerns.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

June D. Bradfield

JDB:sc

Enclosure

April 22, 1997

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

APR 25 10 35 AM '97

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

WE are faculty and staff from Dr. Mudd Elementary in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guaranteed that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda J. J. J.
Susan Carlock
Janice M. Evans
Linda G. Chodry
Maria T. Wierking
Janele King
Carol Beck
Elizabeth W. Wice
Joyce Gregory

Margaret M. Mahaffey
Janet M. Lutz

Apollo

CC 96-45
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
The University of Phoenix, Inc.
Institute for Professional Development
Apollo Development Corporation
Apollo Press

April 25, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 1 1997

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 25 1 50 PM '97

Dear Commissioner Ness:

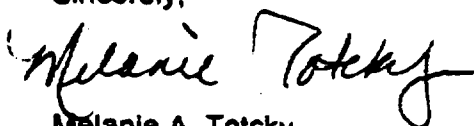
I understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a Federal Equitable Recovery Charge (FERC). The FERC charge is to be at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that the FCC is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, I understand that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate re-balancing" or "modification of rate structures". The monetary burden of the \$4.50 FERC charge alone to my company would exceed \$10,000 per month.

With all due respect, I believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. Nationwide educational and healthcare initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be, is long overdue. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,



Melanie A. Totcky
Manager, Telecommunications
Information Services Department





PEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

900 CAMPUS DRIVE FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030 [912] 825-8258

April 25, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20534

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Commissioner

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 25 1 58 PM '97

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a media specialist from the Peach County School District in Fort Valley, Georgia, and I would like to thank you for your continued dedication in ensuring that all school districts and other educational organizations will have affordable access to the **INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY**.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your support and inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to the future of education. This plan is vital for preparing our students to perform and become productive in the future workforce.

The "E-Rate" would provide tremendous discounts for our system, due to the fact that funding is very tight. This will enable Internet access to classrooms without the school district worrying about installation and maintenance costs. Most importantly, our school district will have the flexibility to determine what services are most economical and beneficial to meet the needs of our students.

The students of the Peach County School District badly need the telecommunications discount services for the 1997-98 school year. I strongly urge the FCC to support the Joint Board's discount plan for worldwide services for all schools.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Naomi R. Simmons, Media Specialist

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 25 2 25 PM '97

Interlochen Center for the Arts

April 25, 1997

Interlochen
World Center for Arts Education

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
Room 832
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Thank you for helping ensure that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

We are excited that the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have an opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion annually will address the needs of all our schools, and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts and Internet Service Provider costs is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Over 70% of our students receive financial assistance to attend our school. They need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Odell

Richard F. Odell
President

RFO/lm

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 25 2 25 PM '97

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS**Montgomery County Elementary School****900 Martin Luther King Drive****Ailey, GA 30410****912/583-2279****912/583-4560 (Fax)**

APR 25 2 26 PM '97

April 25, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am the assistant principal at Montgomery County Elementary School. Thank you for all of your hard work for school districts such as ours. We really do appreciate it.

Montgomery County is a rural area with very few economic opportunities. Over 60% of our students receive free or reduced priced lunches. Our test scores tend to be slightly below the national percentile rankings also. We are working very hard to improve these statistics, and give our students the best education possible. In order to do this we need for them to have all possible educational resources available to them. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will help to bring about parity at all school districts. We want the inclusion of internal classroom connection discounts to be possible. Students need access to the Internet right in their classrooms. Teachers need to be able to incorporate this wonderful resource right into their lessons, and they need to be able to do it immediately.

Please give your fullest consideration to this matter, and thank you again for caring about the children that will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

James E Days

James Days
Assistant Principal

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a superintendent from Mansfield School District in Mansfield.

We feel that it is important that the FCC understand how important it is for American students to have affordable access to the internet.

Our school exists in a small, rural, and very isolated farming community with a very high percentage of low income students. Internet access affords our students the ability to find resources and information that would otherwise be unavailable to them. It also provides our students vital contact with the outside world.

We understand that the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is particularly important to our area.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year, I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Bill Thornton, Ph.D.
Superintendent

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 25 3 06 PM '97

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

4-24-97

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program. I am an employee of the Lassen County Office of Education and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gayle Triplett

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

April 24, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the educational technology coordinator for the Treutlen County school system, and I would like to express my gratitude for the actions you have taken to ensure that all school districts will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. In my position, I am very much aware of the impact technology has on our everyday lives and especially on education.

I am also the vocational education coordinator for our school system and, thus, very concerned about the preparation of our students for the workforce of tomorrow. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that small, rural school systems like ours will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. It will also allow our school system to continue to provide distance-learning opportunities. It is important to bring these services directly to the classroom where students learn. Thus, your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is crucial.

We currently have one dial-in connection to the Internet at two of our three schools. Needless to say, we cannot meet the needs of all our students with this limited access. These discounts would allow us to provide the wonderful resources available on the Information Superhighway to a greater number of students, a benefit magnified by our inaccessibility to more traditional resources that are available to schools in more populated parts of our state.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jane Currie
Technology/Vocational Coordinator

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SUSAN NESS

April 24, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As the curriculum director for the Treutlen County school system, I am writing to express my gratitude for the actions you have taken to ensure that all school districts will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will help to level the playing field for small, rural school systems like ours and ensure that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. It will also allow our school system to continue to provide distance-learning opportunities. It is important to bring these services directly to the classroom where students learn. Thus, your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is crucial.

We currently have one dial-in connection to the Internet at two of our three schools. Needless to say, we cannot meet the needs of all our students with this limited access. These discounts would allow us to provide the wonderful resources available on the Information Superhighway to a greater number of students, a benefit magnified by our inaccessibility to more traditional resources that are available to schools in more populated parts of our state.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cherrie Smith

Cherrie Smith
Curriculum Director



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Oklahoma State School Boards Association
2801 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105
(405) 528-3571

January 6, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 N Street, N. W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96 - 45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

We are very pleased with the concern and dedication that preceded the decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Internet, and are urging the Federal Communication Commission to fully adopt the recommendations of the FCC Federal-State Joint Board.

At the present time, very few schools in Oklahoma have the funds or appropriate providers to connect their schools to the world wide network of information available to them. We are encouraged by the action of the Joint Board, and we extend our appreciation to you for your leadership in helping bring affordable technology access to our schools.

Sincerely,

Sammy Young
President

Bob Mooneyham
Executive Director

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**Harrisburg Community Unit School
District Number 3**

40 South Main Street
Harrisburg, Illinois 62946

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MAY 1 1997

Dear Honorable Ness;

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Schools and Libraries

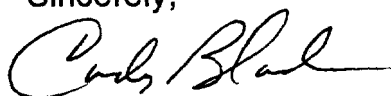
I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow schools and libraries significant discounts for the telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all of our schools are connected to the Internet, and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that Schools and Libraries would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telco and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our schools and libraries -- and -- ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Cindy Black
Technology Coordinator

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MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

P. O. Box 1148

FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030

PHONE: (912) 825-3132

DR. JACKIE G. STINCHCOMB, DIRECTOR

FAX: (912) 825-8248

April 25, 1997

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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SUSAN NESS
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RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the director of a regional educational agency in the Middle Georgia area. In the rural areas that my agency serves, it is imperative that students have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Our school systems need discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,

Jackie Stinchcomb



Santee School District

WHERE YOUNG MINDS MEET OPEN DOORS

April 22, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

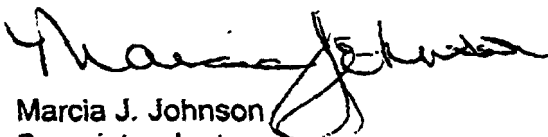
Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all students will have affordable access to the internet and distance-learning opportunities. As Superintendent of Santee School District, a suburban district in San Diego county, I personally lend my strong support for the "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms. This program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow. Santee School District is a small district with approximately 8,400 students and our Board of Education is dedicated to a plan for wiring classrooms and purchasing computer workstations. We are committed to providing our students with the best learning environment and tools available. The "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marcia J. Johnson
Superintendent

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